A DECLARATION

Of Her

Sacred Majestie

OF

SWEDEN,

Concerning the setling of Convoys about *Gothemburg*.

Given at *Stockholm* the 16th of *August*, 1653.

LONDON, Printed by *W. D.* 1653.

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F.E.STOAKLEY CAMBRIDGE

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A Declaration of her Sacred Majestie of *Sweden*, concerning the setling of Convoys about *Gothemburg*.

Given at *Stockholm* the 16th of *August*, 1653.

We Christina by the Grace of God, Queen of the *Swedes*, *Gothes* and *Vandales*, great Princes of *Finland*; Dutchess of *Eastland*, *Carelen*, *Bremen*, *Verden*, *Stetin*, *Pomeren*, *Cassuben*, and *Venden*; Princes of *Rugen*; Ladie of *Ingermanland* and *Wismar*; do make known, That whereas most grievous complaints have several times com to us, from diverse of our Dominions and Kingdoms; how *viz.* the means of livelyhood of our Kingdom, and of our faithful Subjects, are intercepted; but especially, how the libertie of Maritim Navigation beeing disturbed, they are forced at this time to sustein all kindes of losses, dammages and dangers, partly by Pirats, who, under pretence of the disturbance of a publick War, beeing often altogether unknown, do infest the Seas with a promiscuous and undiscerning storm; partly by other Frigots, who, under diverse sorts of Commissions, and covering themselvs under the color of a prosecution of a lawful Enemie, do often invade and spoil in open Sea, and in their free cours the Merchant ships of our Subjects, and do take and carrie away many of them; which afterwards, contrarie to all moderation, bee-

ing deteined, are much misused. Therefore, both the equitie and the faithfulnes of Roial Protection (on which our faithful Subjects do repose their trust and relief) requiring it, wee have therein diligently used our endeavors for the utter removing of such damages and hinderances from our Kingdom, and the Subjects thereof; Which troubles, as from the beginning of this dangerous War by Sea, between the Common-wealths of *England*, & of the *United Provinces* of the *Netherlands*, wee did easily fore-see should happen to such as go to Sea; so wee then used our due and provident care, not onely betimes to remove the same, but further also wee freely and seriously did strive, by amicable waies, to quench the burning flames of that bloodie War. Moreover, as to this day wee have been willing carefully and sincerely to maintein the amitie, which hath been of old between our Kingdom of *Sweden* and the Confederate and friendly States, so wee hope to have still the same confidence of mutual amitie equally enterteined between them. And therefore, least Wee, or our faithful Subjects, should have that Character put upon us, as if, under pretence of amitie and free Navigation, wee would cover the ships and goods of one or the other of the two Common-wealths in enmitie, and thereby give occasion to the suspitions objected to Us and our Subjects; by reason of which, many of our ships, not onely of such as sailed to any one of the said respective Enemies, but also of such as were bound for neutral places, have been interrupted: And in particular, least our ships and goods, and of our faithful Subjects, have reason to fear the violence and force either of the Pirats, or of the Frigots aforesaid; Wee could finde no better, nor more convenient waie, to provide unto the sincere integritie and securitie of our said ships, then by commanding a Squadron of our men of War to attend and remain in som of our Ports towards the West, especially at *Gothemburg*, which shall have a more accurate inspection, for the preventing of all frauds; and accordingly shall lawfully defend, in their free cours, all our ships and goods against all unjust attempts. For which end, and that this our design might bee the better signified and promoted, wee desire that the under-written Articles might bee taken for a

rule,

rule, by ſuch as are concerned therein; and do graciouſly command all ſuch as are bound to obey our will, to obſerv the ſame, without any kinde of neglect.

1. Our men of War, which upon occaſion ſhall bee by us appointed for the foreſaid Convoys, ſhall abide at *Gothemburg*, or thereabouts; that, when required, they might bee ready to conduct, through the Weſtern Seas, the Merchant's ſhips, which ſhall com out of the *Sound*, and ſhall have need of their Convoy.

2. When any Merchant-Ship ſhall com and deſire the ſaid Convoy, the ſame ſhall be ſtrictly viſited, leaſt any other Ships or goods, but ſuch as properly belong to our Subjects, or perhaps to ſuch as are neutral, might bee received under the protection of our Convoys. For which end, all the Paſſes and Certificates of the Merchant's goods ſhall bee diligently examined, and a ſtrict inquirie made, by the Admiral, or the chief Commanders of the ſaid Convoys. And in particular if it happen's that ſom neutral Towns ſhall deſire their Ships and Goods to ſail under our Convoys, wee can ſee no ſufficient reaſon, why wee ſhould deny it: But yet in that caſe, they ſhall bee obliged to give full and ſufficient ſecuritie to our ſaid Convoys, by the Teſtimonial Letters of the Magiſtrates of the Towns, from whence they ſet forth, concerning the proprietie of the Ships and goods, leaſt, under the ſaid Ships and goods of the ſaid Towns, any fraud lie hid and covered; becauſ the Officers of our ſaid Men of War ſhall have ſuch a care, that if they meet at Sea with any Fleet, either great, or ſmall, they might have a cleer and ſincere anſwer to give them.

3. If any be ſo bold, againſt this our ſevere Command, to abuſe any of our Convoys, thereby intending to cover his frauds, and the ſame, either preſently after, or afterwards in progreſs of time, ſhall happen to com to knowledg, the ſaid goods and wares, or their true value, without any mitigation, ſhall bee forfeited to us and to our Crown, if the ſaid goods, or the defrauder himſelf, or any part of his other goods, then, or hereafter at any time, be found in our Kingdoms, Dominions, or Ports. And further, the Skipper, if hee bee convicted to have been conſcious of the fraud, ſo that hee bee not able to cleer himſelf of it, beſides the goods ſo concealed, ſhall loſe the

part, hee may have in the Ship; or if hee hath none, then hee ſhall bee arreſted, until he redeem's himſelf with 500 crowns.

4. If our ſhips of Convoy do meet perchance with, either many, or few, or one Ship, of whatſoëver Nation they might bee, they ſhall bee bound to require nothing elſ of them, but good correſpondence; to declare all manner of friendſhip with any of them; and to take heed, not to give any lawful or juſt cauſ of miſ-underſtanding or quarrel. And wee are further content, that if any Fleet of men of War doth, in a juſt manner, require it of them, they might ſhew our Powers or Paſſes, and declare what Ships have been received under the protection of their Convoy. But, by all decent way, they ſhall decline, either to bee themſelvs, or any in their companie, particularly ſearched; but, as they are gon out with full ſecuritie, leſt any fraud ſhould bee concealed; ſo likewiſe wee deſire they might bee credited, that they might go on in their Voyages, without let or moleſtation, with all the Veſſels in their companie.

5. If our Convoys meet with any Caper, and bee not troubled by him, they ſhall forbear to meddle with him. But, if they obſerv him to intend any violence, wee will have our Men of War diligently to mark from whence ſuch Caper did ſet forth, and then ſeriouſly to warn him of the debate and accuſation like to inſue before his own Magiſtrate. And if for all that hee doth not deſiſt, and if neceſſitie forceth thereunto, Ours ſhall, as much as in them laie, by force repulſ violence, both from themſelvs, and from their companie.

6. As wee finde that no lawful ſuſpition can bee had of our free Ships, when they are once paſt the Channel between *England* and *France*; ſo wee will not have our Men of War to conduct them farther then the Ports within the ſaid Channel. In particular, for ſom ſpecial cauſes, wee will have our Men of War now at the begining, to direct ſpecially their Convoys to ſuch Ports, as are neutral in this War between *England* and the *Netherlands*, until wee do otherwiſe declare our minde thereupon: But yet ſo, as it might bee free to any of our Subjects to go either into *England* or into the *Netherlands* to exerciſe their free Commerce, if without our further Convoy they will do it.

7. When

7. When our Men of War ſhall have ſo ſafely brought the ſaid Merchant-Ships through the ſaid Channel, and left them in ſafetie, they ſhall indeavor forthwith to return to *Gothemburg*: Or, if there bee any Ship that bee willing to return into the Weſtern Seas, they ſhall exſpect them at *Roſcow* in little *Brittany* in *France*, and having examined the ſame, after the waie before preſcribed, they ſhall bring them back again ſafe.

8. That a more exact regard might bee had of the time when our Men of War ſhall bee bound to ſet forth from *Gothemburg* for Convoys; Wee thought fit that at leaſt the ſame bee don once in a month, when there ſhall bee any Ship ready to bee conducted. But otherwiſe whenſoëver 10 Merchant-Ships ſhall bee ready at *Gothemburg* to bee convoyed, they ſhall do it without regarding the time. And in particular, they ſhall obſerv this, that when the number of Merchant-Ships is leſs then 10, they onely ſhall want one Ship of Convoy; but if they bee above 10, to the number of 20, two Ships of Convoy ſhall bee granted them. And, if there bee yet more in number, the Admiral ſhall have power to determine how many Convoys they ſhall have.

9. Becauſ hereby wee onely intend to provide to the ſecuritie of the navigation of our faithful Subjects; therefore our will is, that all ſuch as do inhabit our Dominions, Kingdoms, or Provinces, who are willing to enjoy the free navigation towards and through the Weſtern Seas to neutral places, ſhould forbear, during the preſent unſafetie at Sea, raſhly to go further then *Gothemburg*, but ſhould remain there, and look for Convoys; that ſo much the better wee might undertake their protection. And if any, ſlighting this our gracious precaution, doth put himſelf in danger, hee is to exſpect to bee brought by us to condign puniſhment for his temeritie.

10. Laſtly, that the charges required for the maintaining of our ſaid Men of War, bee not meerly and ſolely born by Us and our Crown, and yet not becom grievous to thoſe who ſhall make uſe of the ſaid Convoys, wee have thought good to impoſe a certain Tax, which wee will ſhortly publiſh, with our gracious Command, that whoſoëver ſhall bee willing

willing to uſe the ſaid Convoys, might paſe the ſame in our Chamber of Duties at *Gothemburg*; which don, they ſhall not bee further moleſted.

And therefore hereby wee do friendly, and as it becometh, intreat both the aforeſaid Common-wealths now in publick War, and all our Friends and Allyes, that, ſeeing wee hereby ſtrive, as much as in us lie's, to hinder and prevent all kindes of fraud and colluſion, which might happen by occaſion of our free navigation, wherein wee ſeek for nothing elſ, but what may bee admitted in all natural Equitie and Reaſon, they would mutually vouchſafe to iſſue out more ſerious and full Commands to all their Officers and Servants, both by Sea and by Land, as alſo to all private Men of War, that go under their Commiſſions, or are any waie ſubject unto them, not to undertake any thing againſt our Men of War or friendly Convoys and their companie, but what may bee agreeable to the confidence of a mutual friendſhip; the which wee exſpect, and are willing freely to acknowledg by the ſame waie. And as to thoſe who are bound to obey our Commands, and are willing ſtrictly to obſerv them, wee ſeverely command them, ſpecially the Admirals and Captains of our ſaid Convoys, and any other belonging to them, as well Merchants, as Skippers and others, who intend to injoy this our gracious protection, or any way do apply themſelvs thereunto, to bee diligently cautious, before all things, not to give the leaſt appearance of fraud or colluſion, nor to give occaſion of any juſt quarrel ariſing from thence; but to bee punctually obedient to this our gracious Ordinance; as they do tender the avoyding of our Royal revenge. In witneſs whereof, wee have ſet our hand, and cauſed our Royal Seal to bee put to theſe preſents.

Dated at our *Caſtle* of *Stockholm* the 16. of *Auguſt* 1653.

CHRISTINA.

Locus Sigilli.